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THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Record Group No. 112

MEDICAL DETACHMENT
938th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

WD - 84

AP0 403
19 Sep 45

Subject: Period Report, Medical Department Activities

To : Surgeon General (thru: Technical Channels) Wash, DC

1. In accordance with Paragraph 4, Memorandum 40-45, WD, 30 Mar 45, the following report of medical activities, 938th FA Bn, for the period 1 Jan 45, to 30 Jun 45, is herewith submitted:

a. This unit was originally brought into active service, 10 Jan 41, as Regimental Medical Detachment, attached to the 166th Field Artillery Regiment, a National Guard unit from Pennsylvania. The 1st Battalion of the 166th Field Artillery Regiment was re-activated, 8 Mar 43, as the 938th Field Artillery Battalion, with attached medical personnel. This unit began its overseas service 21 Aug 43, landing at Oran, North Africa, 2 Sep 43. On 16 Oct 43 this organization arrived in the vicinity of Bizerte, North Africa. On the 22 Oct 43 the battalion left Bizerte harbor and arrived at Naples, Italy, 26 Nov 43, where the first Air-raid was experienced. This battalion went into combat 1 Dec 43, in the vicinity of Venafrò, Italy.

31 Jan 44, battalion arrived at Anzio, remaining in this one area until 23 May 44. This battalion participated in the invasion of Southern France, making an amphibious landing on D-Day, 15 Aug 44.

On the 5th of February, 1945, this battalion boasted of 365 combat days.

The first man of the battalion to receive the Silver Star award was a member of the Medical Detachment, who received this award for courageous duty while wounded and under enemy fire.

b. The battalion Aid Station operated as attached unit to Headquarters Btry during all missions; each battery having medical department personnel attached to it as Aid Men.

c. No problems of Redeployment were encountered by this unit.

d. No civilian personnel were employed by, or attached to this unit. Military personnel were highly trained and adapted themselves to all conditions with skill and aptitude.

e. Fifty per-cent of the Medical personnel of this detachment received training at Military Medical Centers. Detachment was always supplied with all the current Field and Training Manuals and Circulars and supplemented with Medical text-books. Training aids were utilized whenever possible and/or practicable,

f. There was never any shortage of medical equipment and supplies. The unit was supplied with an ambulance in addition to prescribed T/O transportation.

g. During this period there was no need or necessity for improvisations

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of techniques, procedures and equipment, due to the fact that there only a very small number of casualties. During this period the battalion suffered approximately 10 casualties.

h. Unit and battalion personnel were billeted in permanent houses when conditions permitted. Medical Detachment personnel were always billeted in houses. Authorized military water supply points were available most of the times; the very few times they were not chemical sterilizers were always on hand for making the water potable. Due to fact that personnel was billeted in houses bathing facilities were ~~was~~ always available. Laundry was taken care of by the civilian labor 90% of the time; the remainder of the time personnel did its own laundry.


i. Detachment was attached at all times for messing to Headquarters Battery. Rations were delivered on a 'daily basis' and hence no problems. Sewage and waste disposal was maintained in accordance with current directives. Insect control was also practiced in accordance with current directives.

j. There were no cases of venereal disease in the Detachment during this period. Routine lectures were given to troops of this organization by Medical Department personnel. An adequate supply of condoms and chemical prophylaxis were kept on hand at all times in each battery orderly room, and a prophylaxis station established in the Aid Station and in each battery. 'Instructive' and 'cautioning' posters on VD were posted throughout the battalion in conspicuous locations.

k. Treatment of Battle casualties consisted of administering the most known advanced first aid and the quickest possible evacuation of the patient.

l. Medical personnel were included in all the recreational and social activities of the battery to which attached.

m. During the period of combat 1 Dec 43 to 8 May 45, the battalion suffered a total of 104 casualties: 87 wounded in action, 17 killed or died of injuries sustained in action against the enemy.


I.E. MISTRETTE
Capt., MC
SURG, 938th FA Bn

SG 319.1

3rd Ind.

RVM/wc

OFFICE OF THE SURGEON, Headquarters Oise Intermediate Section, Theater Service Forces, European Theater, APO 513, U S Army. 1 October 1945.

THRU: Chief Surgeon, Theater Service Forces, European Theater, APO 887, US Army.

TO : Surgeon General, Washington., D.C..

HIST

G.W.H.
G.W.H.

1st Ind.


REM/gdp

OFFICE OF THE SURGEON, CAMP BROOKLYN, SUIPPES SUB-AREA, OISE INTERMEDIATE
SECTION, A.P.O. 752, U.S. ARMY 28 September 1945

TO: Surgeon General (thru: Technical Channels) Washington, D.C.

Approved and forwarded.

For the Camp Surgeon:



ROBERT E. MILLER
1st Lt., M.A.C.,
Admin. Officer

2nd Ind TSM/jc
OFFICE OF THE SURGEON, SUIPPES SUB AREA, OISE INTERMEDIATE SECTION,
29 September 1945.

TO: Surgeon, Oise Intermediate Section, Theater Service Forces,
European Theater, APO 513, US Army.

Forwarded:

For the Surgeon:


THOMAS S. MERRILL
Captain, MAC
Executive Officer